



MINUTES

Library Board

5:00 PM - Monday, August 17, 2026

Library, 1101 6th Avenue

The Library Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 5:00 PM, with the following members present:

PRESENT: In Person: Am Thayer, Becky Garms, Bob Hoyt, Bob Read,
Julie Lammers, Kristen Miller, Nancy Miller, Ross McIntyre,
Sabrina Beyer
Via Zoom: Krystle Mullin, Kelsey Logan, Ryan Norton

ABSENT: Melissa Alexander

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Carroll, Kimberly Cowger, Ashley Osborn, Bob Reynolds

FRIENDS REP: Mary Hajek

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President, Ross McIntyre

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to approve agenda as presented. **(Action Requested)**

Moved by Lammers, seconded by Garms, to approve the Agenda as presented.
Approved unanimously

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

PUBLIC FORUM

This time is set aside for comments from the public. Please understand that the Library Board of Trustees will not take any action on your comments at this time due to requirements of the Open Meetings Law but may do so at a future meeting. You will have five minutes to address the Board.

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

1. July Staff Milestone Anniversaries - Thank you to Jack Reynolds who is celebrating his one year anniversary with the Library and to Bill Carroll for five years.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the July 2026 Meeting minutes. **(Action Requested)**

Moved by Thayer, seconded by Beyer, to approve the July 2026 Meeting Minutes as

presented.
Approved unanimously

REPORTS

1. Friends of the Marion Public Library Report

- Mary Hajek reported that the Friends Annual meeting was held last month. Three Board Members left and three new members joined the Board.
- The Friends Bookstore is no longer taking Venmo for payments.
- Future Friends Booksales will be held on:
 - November 13-15, 2026
 - April 9-11, 2027
 - July 9-11, 2027
 - November 12-14, 2027

2. Marion Public Library Foundation Report

- Hilery Livengood submitted a Foundation Report for Board Members as she was absent from this meeting.

3. Board Continuing Education

- None to report.

4. Director's Report

- Budget Update
 - Expenses are at 21% due to contract renewals that happen at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Statistics Highlights
 - Correct Program Attendance for July 2025 should have been 8,001.
- General Department Updates
 - Bush Construction has started interior drywall repairs. The Terrace has passed waterproof testing.
 - The Summer Library Program was a great success! While not as many reading logs were handed out this year, there was a higher percentage of reading logs returned this year.
 - Julie Lammers asked what prompted the website redesign. Bill Carroll explained that there were specific accessibility guidelines that will need to be met by our website in the near future, so we took this opportunity to refresh our website while also ensuring we meet all accessibility guidelines.

Motion to accept all reports 1 - 4 as presented. **(Action Requested)**

Moved by Read, seconded by Miller, to accept Reports 1-4 as presented.

Approved unanimously

REGULAR AGENDA

1. State Library Board of *Trustees Handbook* - Ch. 2 - 3 (*Discussion*)

- Question # 1: How can we make trustee education more engaging and meaningful rather than simply meeting the minimum training requirements?
 - Bill Carroll reminded everyone that all Board Members get CE credit for attending Board Meetings and listening to staff presentations.

- Question #2: Looking at the five primary responsibilities of a library board, which area do you believe is our greatest strength, and which area offers the biggest opportunity for growth? Why?
 - Bob Hoyt said our most important responsibility is hiring the Library Director.
 - Becky Garms said that hiring a good Library Director trickles down to doing well in other areas of responsibility.
 - Julie Lammers said the area offering the biggest opportunity for growth is to plan for the future.
- Question #3: As we think about the future of our library, what emerging community needs, trends, or opportunities should we be paying closer attention to over the next three to five years?
 - Bob Read mentioned that Advocacy is one of the most important tools.
 - Kristen Miller said working with the Foundation to form a five-year plan.
 - Becky Garms said we should keep a close eye on physical materials vs. digital materials.
 - Ross McIntyre mentioned that as Marion continues to grow, we will likely need a branch in the future.

2. Art Donation (*Discussion* and Direction/Potential Action)

- Bill Carroll explained that he was approached by a patron wanting to know if we would be interested in a donation of a piece of art she found at a yard sale. It is a piece by Stan Haring, an artist from Iowa City. Krystle Mullin noted that most of his work is of Johnson County.
- Bill recommends that we not accept this art donation due to knowing very little about the piece and the fact that the artist has no ties to Marion. Two previous attempts to get the Art Work Group together were unsuccessful due to scheduling.
- Julie Lammers and Bob Hoyt recommend tabling this discussion and waiting for the Art Work Group to discuss.

Moved by Lammers, seconded by Miller, to table the art donation discussion to allow the Art Work Group to discuss.

Approved unanimously

3. Parade Work Group Update (*Discussion*)

- Examples of parade giveaways were given to Board Members.
- The parade banner was on display for preview.
- The parade is on Saturday, September 12th at 10 a.m. Those taking part in the parade are asked to arrive at least 15-20 minutes before 10 a.m.

ADJOURN

Moved by Garms, seconded by Lammers, to adjourn at 5:37 p.m.

Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:

Kimberly Cowger, Administrative Assistant